

PLANNING AHEAD

Notes for the Planning and Policy Community

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In This Issue

COMBINED ECONOMICS AND ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS CONFERENCE	1
IWR Planning and Policy Welcomes New Staffer	3
Coastal Engineers Meet at Avalon, New Jersey	3
Corps Biologist Heads Cast of Top Conservation Award Winners	3
Latest Navigation News – Unsinkable Towboat	4
The U.S. Waterway System – TRANSPORTATION FACTS	4
Estuary Restoration Act of 2000	5
Environmental Advisory Board	5
Tribal Partnership Program Report	6
PIANC – 30th Quadrennial World Congress and 100th Anniversary Conference, US Section, Both This Year	7
Planners Resource Web Site	7
National Flood Proofing Committee – Your Nonstructural Expert	8
Instructions for Contributors to Planning Ahead	8
Subscribing to Planning Ahead	9
Submissions Deadline	9

(Ed. Note – We have inserted hyper links in the Table of Contents to allow you to jump to specific articles. To return to the Table of Contents, click on the [book icon](#).)

----- MARK YOUR CALENDARS -----

COMBINED ECONOMICS AND ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS CONFERENCE

***JULY 15-19, 2002
NEW ORLEANS HILTON***

Watch the planning homepage
for formal announcement and agenda

----- SEE ARTICLE BELOW FOR CONFERENCE DESCRIPTION -----

Economic and Environmental Analysis Conference 2002: “Balancing Economy and Environment”

Focus: This conference will provide a forum to discuss economic and environmental issues related to the Corps mission areas, with special emphasis on ecosystem restoration, multipurpose projects, and environmental sustainability. Over four days, the shared conference will address a wide variety of topics related to ecosystem restoration and economic analysis presented in a mix of joint and concurrent sessions. The conference will emphasize interactions among economists, environmental scientists and engineers. The format will allow for discussions of lessons learned, case studies, and current and potential future issues facing the Corps. Issues relating to the full range of Corps water resources activities including problem identification, plan formulation and evaluation, engineering and construction, operations and maintenance, and adaptive management and monitoring may be discussed.

Target Audience: Corps District and Division staff actively involved in economic and environmental analysis on Corps studies, projects or research. Experts from Corps Labs, universities, and other organizations/agencies engaged in engineering, economic and environmental aspects of water resources management are also expected to participate.

Topics: The main areas of interest identified by field respondents were: combined NED and NER plan formulation; quantifying (and qualifying) environmental benefits; CE/ICA and lessons learned; risk and uncertainty in quantifying NER benefits, and technology transfer. Hence, these topics will be the main focus of the conference. Additional topics within each of the technical disciplines will be announced.

Participate: If you would like to participate as a moderator, presenter, and/or recorder and have not notified us of such an interest please contact Mark Colosimo or Bruce Carlson by email. Additionally, if you have not yet indicated you would like to be added to our conference mailing list, contact us so you will receive the formal conference announcement and agenda.

Logistics: Date: 15 to 19 July, 2002
 Location: New Orleans Hilton

Conference Updates: Watch the Planning Homepage for a formal announcement, conference agenda, and logistical details.

IWR Planning and Policy Welcomes New Staffer

Eugene Stakhiv -- CEIWR

I'm pleased to announce that Mr. Paul Scodari has accepted a senior economist position in the IWR Policy and Planning Division. While a Visiting Scholar Mr. Scodari had a major influence on several important studies during his tenure here. We welcome his full-time presence at the Institute. His appointment is another step in the direction of fulfilling our Director's aim of making IWR a "world class" organization.

Mr. Scodari is an environmental economist with 20 years professional experience in environmental management, with an emphasis on water resources. From 1999 to 2002 Mr. Scodari served as Visiting Scholar with CEIWR-PD through an IPA with Virginia Tech. At IWR Mr. Scodari has served as principal investigator for policy and special studies relating to Corps regulatory programs, and as part of an interdisciplinary team working on the conceptual development and evaluation of economic

frameworks and methods for ecosystem restoration planning. Before coming to IWR, MR Scodari worked for 6 years for various private consulting firms and with the Environmental Law Institute. He also served as principal investigator and report author for the USEPA report to Congress, *Environmental Investments: The Cost of a Clean Environment*, that provided the first comprehensive evaluation of compliance costs associated with US environmental policies and programs. Mr. Scodari holds a BA in economics and an MS in environmental and resource economics from the University of Maryland.

Coastal Engineers Meet at Avalon, New Jersey

Robert C Johnson -- CENAP

The Philadelphia District hosted the 73rd annual Coastal Engineering Research Board (CERB) meeting on 5-6 March 2002 in Avalon, New Jersey. Engineers, researchers and elected officials gathered at this two-day event to discuss the current state of beach replenishment processes. Topics presented to the research board included: An Overview of Corps Processes and Issues, State and Local Perspectives on Beach Nourishment Projects and Private Sector Experience with Beach Nourishment. The meeting concluded with a field trip visiting several District shore protection projects along the southern coast of New Jersey, including a demonstration project at Cape May Point and a beachfill/environmental restoration project in Lower Cape May Meadows.

You can read about CERB at -- <http://bigfoot.wes.army.mil/cerb.html>. 

Corps Biologist Heads Cast of Top Conservation Award Winners

Excerpted from -- Breaux Act Newsflash

Suzanne Hawes of New Orleans [District] was honored Saturday evening (March 2) with the Louisiana Wildlife Federation's Governor's Award. The award is presented annually to the person or

organization deemed to have made the most outstanding contribution toward the protection and wise use of the state's natural resources - air, soil and minerals, forests, waters, fish and wildlife during the previous year from among nominations submitted by the public. The selection for this and eight other awards was made by a panel of independent judges with expertise in a wide range of conservation fields.

Hawes received the award, a handsome statuette of a bald eagle, at the 38th Conservation Achievement Recognition Banquet held at the Mari Center, Paragon Casino and Resort in Marksville, where the Louisiana Wildlife Federation convened...for its 63rd Annual Meeting.

For the full story go to the LAcoast website at <http://www.lacoast.gov/press/2002-03-05b.htm>.



Latest Navigation News – Unsinkable Towboat

The Editor

Is the towboat in this series of pictures named "Molly Brown"? If not, maybe she ought to be. To view the unsinkable towboat go to these links, which have the same pictures of different sizes and brightness'.

<http://koti.mbnet.fi/~soldier/towboat.htm>

<http://www.netcopspsi.com/temp/towboat.htm>

The pictures were brought to our attention by Cheryl Smith, an ex-Planning Division staffer who recently joined the entrepreneurial class.

The U.S. Waterway System – TRANSPORTATION FACTS

Arlene L. Dietz, CEIWR-NDC

Recently released and distributed to all Corps offices is the December 2001 edition of the USACE waterborne transportation information fact card “The U.S. Waterway System – TRANSPORTATION FACTS”. If you or your office would like additional copies contact Joyce Smith of the Navigation Data Center at 703-428-9061. However, if you would like very large quantities for public distribution an additional printing may be necessary, so please plan accordingly. The Fact Card contents are available on the Navigation Data Center (NDC) web site at www.iwr.usace.army.mil/ndc.


The contents of the fact card include tables displaying total, foreign and domestic waterborne commerce by major commodity group for 2000; geographic distribution of activities; traffic by state and by major ports; distribution of port and waterways facilities by region; inland domestic traffic and ton-miles by waterway; and the newest table “Top 20 U.S. Ports Handling Foreign Waterborne In-transits in 2000”. The popularly quoted “Did You Know” facts are again included covering such as information as the Inland Waterways Trust Fund and Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund balances, earnings and expenditures for FY 2001.

Estuary Restoration Act of 2000

Ellen Cummings – CECW-PD

The Estuary Habitat Restoration Council had its second meeting 23 January 2002. The Council accepted the minutes of the 26 October 2001 meeting and discussed the draft strategy prepared by the interagency working group. Members of the public were invited to contribute to the discussion of how to identify large and small projects. The Council agreed on language defining a small project as one with a Federal cost of \$250,000 or less and involving 50 acres or less. Steve Funderburk, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, discussed the North American Wetlands Conservation Council and the procedures used by that body to select projects to fund. Ellen Cummings, USACE, gave a brief summary of the process used by the Task Force established in the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act to develop and select projects for funding. The language of the conference report was referenced by Mr. Izzo as he endorsed a streamlined process. The working group was directed to work on the criteria and process for solicitation of project proposals and the process for implementing projects. Several members of the public made comments concerning the strategy, the progress made to date and the need for funding for the program.

The draft strategy is currently undergoing OMB review. Upon completion of that review it will be published in the Federal Register with a 45 day comment period. The FY2003 budget contains \$100,000 in the General Investigation appropriation for coordination and support of the Counsel.

A web site has been established as well as an electronic mailing list, <http://www.usace.army.mil/estuary.html>. Eventually there will be links to a page with the minutes of past meetings. If you want to subscribe to the list server and you work for the Corps be sure to include the letter and number server identification after the @ when you enter your email address. For example a headquarters address is name@HQ02.usace... For additional information contact Ellen Cummings at 202 761-4558. 

Environmental Advisory Board

Ellen Cummings – CECW-PD

The next meeting of the Chief of Engineers' Environmental Advisory Board(EAB) will be in Rock Island, Illinois on April 11, 2002. The discussion of environmental sustainability within the Corps of Engineers Military and Civil Works functions initiated in Vicksburg at the 2 November meeting will be continued. Among the items to be covered will be the Corps of Engineers Operating Principles and draft guidance on the incorporation of sustainability into Corps projects, such as the current study of navigation on the Upper Mississippi River and Illinois Waterways System. The Board will visit the Construction Engineering Research Laboratory prior to the meeting to learn about the work being done for the military.

Information about the EAB may be found on the "Hot Topics" page at http://www.usace.army.mil/inet/functions/cw/hot_topics/eab.htm. An electronic mailing list has been established for distribution of announcements about meetings and the availability of meeting minutes. If you want to subscribe to the list server and you work for the Corps be sure to include the letter and

number server identification after the @ when you enter your email address. For example a headquarters address is name@HQ02.usace... For additional information contact Ellen Cummings at 202 761-4558.



Tribal Partnership Program Report

Lynn Martin -- CEIWR

A new report was recently completed as part of the IWR Policy Studies Program -TRIBAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM: *Issues Relevant to Working with Native Americans and Alaska Natives on Section 203 Studies* (IWR Report IWR 01-PS-3).

This report identifies and examines opportunities and policy issues associated with implementation of the Tribal Partnership Program, authorized by Section 203 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000. The legislation authorizes the Corps to work collaboratively with Federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments (tribes) to study the feasibility of water resource projects that will substantially benefit tribes. Section 203 studies may address a number of purposes: flood damage reduction, environmental restoration and protection, and preservation of cultural and natural resources.

While the program has not yet received funding, the report examines a number of topics and issues relevant to Section 203 implementation in anticipation of future funding support. The report discusses potential studies that could be conducted under Section 203, along with the nature of products or services potentially allowed under Section 203. Examples of work conducted with tribal partners through other existing programs and authorities are provided.

Discussion is presented regarding the use of the Corps' Tribal Policy Principles in developing and guiding implementation of the Section 203 program. Additional issues discussed in the report include: cost sharing, ability to pay, and work-in-kind for Section 203 studies, concepts relevant to cultural resources preservation studies (e.g. consideration of cultural and ethnic significance) and conducting studies with tribal sponsors (e.g. communication styles and dealing with potentially sensitive information). Federal interest with regard to Section 203, formulation and evaluation issues, and other planning considerations are discussed.

The report discusses potential coordination and collaboration with other Federal agencies in assisting tribes, and includes brief summaries of some of the relevant programs of other agencies. The intent is that awareness of these programs may facilitate assistance to the tribes through collaborative efforts that leverage Federal resources. Preliminary suggestions are offered regarding potential legislation and policy, actions and ideas that may be useful in implementing the Section 203 Tribal Partnership Program.

The report is available at: <http://www.iwr.usace.army.mil/iwr/pdf/tribalsec203report.pdf>. Questions about this study and report can be directed to Lynn Martin (703-428-8065) or Meg Smith (703-428-6303) at IWR.


PIANC – 30th Quadrennial World Congress and 100th Anniversary Conference, US Section, Both This Year

Brad Fowler – CECW-PG

The Permanent International Association of Navigation Congresses (PIANC) goes mostly by its shorter name these days, the International Navigation Association. Either way, the US Section 100th Anniversary Conference will be in Vicksburg, MS, April 17-19, 2002, and the 30th World Congress will be in Sydney, Australia, September 22-26, 2002.

"The International Navigation Association (PIANC) is a worldwide non-political and non-profit making technical and scientific organization of private individuals, corporations and national governments. The term 'Navigation' was adopted because PIANC's object is to promote the maintenance and operation of both inland and maritime navigation by fostering progress in the planning, design, construction, improvement, maintenance and operation of inland and maritime waterways and ports and of coastal areas for general use in industrialized and industrializing countries. Facilities for fisheries, sport and recreational navigation are included in PIANC's activities."

PIANC, which began in 1885, today has over 3000 government, corporate and individual members located in over 71 countries. The US section is one of 23 National Sections. You can read about the US Section meeting at <http://www.wrsc.usace.army.mil/pianc/> and about the main organization, headquartered in Brussels, Belgium, at <http://www.pianc-aipcn.org/>.


Two odd facts encountered in researching this: Greece, which is a large irregular peninsula, is arguably the founder of regularized international trade over 2500 years ago, and is still a power in shipping, has no National Section nor any governmental members, while landlocked Switzerland has not only governmental members but a National Section. 

Planners Resource Web Site

Richard Whittington -- CEIWR - PA

A web site dedicated to providing electronic resources to the planning community is currently in beta version and is available for review. This web site, the Planner's Resource Web, is one of the recommended actions of the recent Corps planning capabilities task force. The task force recommended providing Corps planners with regulations, guidance letters, document templates and other commonly used planning resources over the Internet. The web site includes a planning "library," resources categorized by planning activity, planning-related links and other useful resources. The team guiding the construction and development of the site includes Harry Kitch (HQ), Brad Fowler(HQ), Russ Rangos(HQ), Roger Setters (LRL), Mark Gmitro (IWR), Art Bennett (SAJ), James Conley (SPD), and Richard Whittington (IWR).

The address for the web site is: <http://www.iwr.usace.army.mil/iwr/plannersweb>.


Comments/suggestions/questions are being solicited from the field in order to improve upon this beta version. Please send comments to: richard.w.whittington@usace.army.mil. 

National Flood Proofing Committee – Your Nonstructural Expert

Larry Buss – CENWO-ED


The Corps of Engineers National Flood Proofing Committee [NFPC] is available to provide assistance to all Divisions and Districts in the implementation of nonstructural measures for purposes of flood damage reduction. Nonstructural measures are a "natural" in achieving the Corps vision of "Environmental Sustainability in Flood Protection". The NFPC has long been a source of technical information on flood proofing. Now the NFPC is available to provide expertise on all aspects of nonstructural measures. This expertise can range from very general concepts on nonstructural measures to project specific assistance on nonstructural measure justification. The assistance can also range from telephone/e-mail to actual on-site visits. The NFPC is preparing a workshop consisting of modules all related to nonstructural measure implementation by the Corps of Engineers. Typical modules consist of: what are nonstructural measures; where do they work; what are the opportunities [flood damage reduction, ecosystem restoration, recreation]; how do they relate to existing authorities; how to do NED analysis, NER analysis, and recreation analysis specific to nonstructural measures; how to implement [construct] a nonstructural project by working with the homeowner and contractor; and innovative plan formulation using the nonstructural measures of relocation and buyout. This workshop will be available to any entities within the Corps wanting to become more adept at implementing nonstructural measures.

The NFPC is also a focal point for nonstructural measures that are being implemented throughout the Corps. To further nonstructural measure implementation, it is important that nonstructural successes be made available to all. The NFPC would like to highlight these successes on its webpage, <http://www.usace.army.mil/inet/functions/cw/cecwp/NFPC/nfpc.htm>. The NFPC will update its report entitled *"Nonstructural Flood Damage Reduction Within the Corps Of Engineers-What District's Are Doing"* as more information on successful nonstructural projects becomes available.

Mr. Larry Buss, Chief of Hydrologic Engineering Branch in Omaha District, is the Chair of the NFPC. Please direct any nonstructural questions, needs, successes, etc to him – Larry.S.Buss@usace.army.mil. 

Instructions for Contributors to Planning Ahead

This newsletter is designed to improve the communication among all the planners and those we work with throughout the Corps. We hope that future editions will have mostly information and perspective from those of you on the front lines in the districts. We hope that these notes become a forum for you to share your experiences to help all of us learn from each other. We can't afford to reinvent the wheel in each office. We welcome your thoughts, questions, success stories, and bitter lessons so that we can share them on these pages. The articles should be short (2-3 paragraphs) except in some cases where you just have to say more.

- Use MS WORD, if at all possible
- Use "normal" style
- Use Times New Roman font, 11 point
- All text should be left justified with start of each paragraph indented by one tab stop.
- Each article should have short title with only initial letter of each word capitalized
- Following each title should be author's name and organization
- Last line should be contact information – phone number or e-mail address 

Subscribing to Planning Ahead


To subscribe or to our distribution list, send an e-mail message to majordomo@usace.army.mil with no subject line and only a single line of text in the message body.

That single line of text should be: "subscribe ls-planningahead"

To obtain a 'help' file, send only the word 'help' in the text of the message (nothing in the subject line) and address it to majordomo@usace.army.mil .

The web site for additional information is: <http://eml01.usace.army.mil/other/listserv.html> 

Submissions Deadline

The deadline for material for the next issue is 19 April 2002. 

Planning Ahead is an unofficial publication authorized under AR 25-30. It is published by the Planning Division, Directorate of Civil Works, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 20 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20314-1000, (<http://www.usace.army.mil/inet/functions/cw/cecwpnews.htm>)

We are pleased that we have doubled the staff of *Planning Ahead* with Brad Fowler coming on board as editor, writer and chief bottle washer. Harry Kitch will continue to serve as publisher. Please continue to send in all those good articles and information to Brad. TEL 202-761-4231, FAX 202-761-1972, or email kirby.b.fowler@usace.army.mil. Harry Kitch can be reached at TEL 202-761-1969 or FAX 202-761-1972 or e-mail Harry.E.Kitch@usace.army.mil. 